

# THE RIGHT TO SPEAK

FOR 30 years a man has stood regularly week by week on a small platform in Hyde Park. Thousands have gathered to listen to his clear, emphatic statements about the Christian religion. He—Mr Christopher is his name—has been there in all winds and weathers. Popularly he has been called "the Archbishop of Hyde Park," and no doubt he has been called many other names.

Standing near him have been two atheist speakers, often denouncing or trying to explain away what Mr Christopher had said. But they have remained good friends in spite of their opposing views, and when Mr Christopher retired recently his opponents presented him with a leather-bound book as a token of their friendship.

A thing like that could happen in few places other than in Hyde Park, London. It is the nation's "windbag corner," but it plays an important part in the nation's life. For years Hyde Park has been the place where Britain has talked and debated. Here anyone has been able to hire a chair, or make a little platform, and get up to speak his mind. He may be preaching a revolutionary gospel, inciting men to rise and defend their rights, or pronouncing his views of the politicians and the Government. Nothing is barred in Hyde Park provided the speaker is prepared to conduct himself in an orderly, decent manner and to respect the rights of other speakers.

## Open-Air Parliament

This right to speak is very precious in our national life, and Hyde Park has given the nation an outlet. Any man who has a grievance or thinks he has been treated harshly by an authority may say what he thinks about it in Hyde Park. There, in the full gaze of his countrymen and with the background of the trees and a wide open space, is no hindrance to his speech. "Windbags," cranks, men with curious views, take up their stand in Hyde Park. It is their open air parliament, and there is always a crowd ready to listen to them.

No doubt, there is much "letting off steam" in Hyde Park. But that is part of its great service to the nation. If all that steam were bottled up and no outlet permitted it might one day burst in an uncomfortable fashion. Here, day by day, the ills and troubles, the grievances and the grouses, are proclaimed with energy. No one is hurt, and many feel better after they have either listened or spoken.

## The Man With a Grouse

In many other countries they do things differently. A man with a grouse soon becomes an agitator and finds himself in opposition to the government. Rightly or wrongly, he is challenged, and free speech denied him. He feels pent up and begins to work in an underground manner. The Hyde Park method has undoubtedly saved Britain from much strife and perhaps much bloodshed. It offers a splendid exercise ground to anyone who has something to "get off his chest." In the process of doing so much happens. The speaker is relieved of his burden of grievance, and the crowd listening is sometimes enlightened.

HYDE PARK has been a "London sight" all these years because it preserves just that element in the British character which

likes to see the man with a grievance get a fair chance. To the men who belong to minorities and unpopular movements it also offers a place where they will be heard. Nothing is more vital in our national life than a true respect for minorities. Britain can never be a one-party people. The British can never step to the same time and speak with the same voice. The individualism of each man must come out and must be respected. It is this which gives variety and colour to our national life. Hyde Park helps to keep the balance right. If all men thought in the same way and acted in the same way life would be a dull, drab affair. To preserve this freedom we have had to take up arms. It is worth defending.

## The Foundation of All True Living

Under a Nazi régime there could be no Hyde Park. "Windbag corner" and its interesting collection of speakers and listeners would quickly fade away. Many of them would be killed and many imprisoned. Their right to speak and to speak freely would be the first casualty under an Adolf Hitler. We may not agree with much that is said in Hyde Park, but we must agree that the right to speak there is a fundamental right for all.

BUT Hyde Park has its serious side. Mr Christopher has been there for thirty years explaining the Christian religion. He has offered "Christian evidence" in facts. He has been there not to express his own views or to say what he thinks may be true. His first job has been to speak the facts. There could not be a greater job for any man.

"Facts," said the great editor C. P. Scott, "are sacred." They are the foundation of all true living and all true thinking. Christianity is founded on fact. It is not a dream religion or a pleasant myth which has no certain foundation. It is founded on fact in the history of man and his world.

It had a beginning and it had supreme expression in a Life lived on earth. No other religion is so well founded on fact. Mr Christopher's job has been to offer the evidence. He has, of course, supported his evidence by argument and illustration. But his addresses have been about the hard, undeniable facts of the Christian religion which none of his atheist friends have been able to refute.

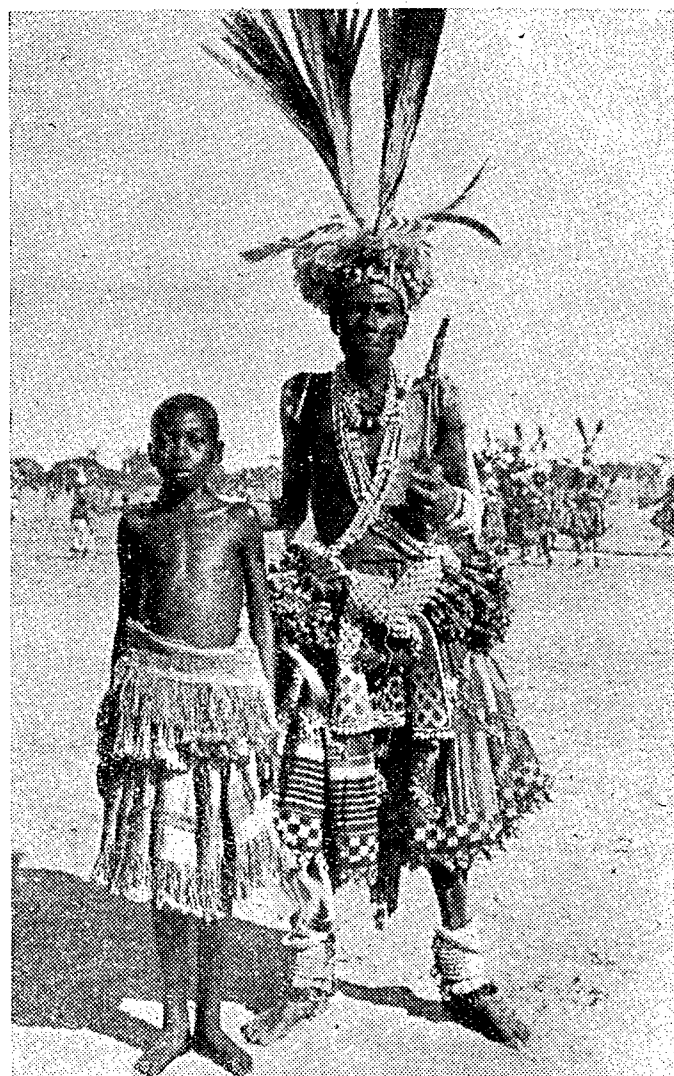
## Precious Things

True facts are among the precious things of life. To re-establish truth in the world will be one of the first post-war jobs. Without respect for a man's word and without respect for international undertakings there can be no return to good, solid law-abiding life.

EVERYONE should be careful of his facts before he speaks or writes. He may offer what comments he pleases as long as his comments are founded on well-tested fact.

That is the supreme test of Hyde Park. A man cannot stand there for long and preach falsehood. He may misinterpret truth, but unless there is some truth in what he says he cannot last. That is the test of true speaking and true argument. A man's speech must be true and have a foundation in the solidity of facts which are tested and true. Thirty years in Hyde Park have proved to Mr Christopher, at least, that his facts stand the test of time.

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## King's Counsellor

A young native of the Belgian Congo with the oldest counsellor of the King Bakuba

## A FRENCHMAN DROPS IN

COUNTLESS thrilling stories are coming out of Normandy, but none more dramatic than the tale of the first Frenchman to enter a village with the liberators.

He was a war correspondent, Pierre Jeannerat, but from his uniform the villagers took him to be British or American. The village was unscathed, but he himself was dusty and weary, dirty and unshaven, so the sign of "Barber" drew his eyes most of all in the little hamlet.

Down he sat in the barber's chair. "I'm a Frenchman," he said, without realising what a sensation those three words were to cause. "Here was a Frenchman in khaki!" "A Frenchman?" The barber rushed out from his shop. "Germaine!" he cried to his wife. "Quick! A Frenchman!" Then into the street to broadcast the wonderful news. "A Frenchman! A Frenchman!"

In a few minutes the barber's shop was overflowing; men, women, children rushing in to see the miracle, pushing to see who should fetch a towel, who should bring the hot water, who should be privileged to get the soap. Through the mirror he could see that the shop door was packed with new arrivals, and Jeannerat emphasises that it was "Frenchman" that everyone repeated: not Frenchman-from-Britain, Frenchman-from-the-Empire, Frenchman-from-Over-sea; just—Frenchman, the man everyone here had awaited so passionately for four long years. "Oh, how happy your coming has made us!" That was the cry. "The first Frenchman!" They had the all-too-familiar tales to tell of German ruthlessness and greed, and of German laughter at the idea that the Allies would come. But here they were, Allies and—the first Frenchman.



## The Voice of Freedom in France Again

*For four long years the towns and villages of France have echoed to the tramp of the Nazi hordes, and their walls have been desecrated by the intolerable commands and degrading verbotens of the hated invader. Already many of these notices have been obliterated for ever by the Proclamation of the Liberator, which is also being widely read in places yet to be freed. This message from General Eisenhower, bringing fresh confidence and hope to the unconquerable people of France, will be treasured among their archives.*

**CITIZENS OF FRANCE:** The day of liberation has dawned. Your comrades in arms are on French soil. I am proud to have under my command the gallant forces of France who have so long trained and waited for this day when they can take part in the liberation of their home country. United we come to settle on the battlefield the war you have continued heroically through years of stubborn resistance. We shall destroy the Nazi tyranny, root and branch, so that the peoples of Europe may have a new birth of freedom.

As Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force, there is imposed on me the duty and responsibility of taking all measures essential to the prosecution of the war. Prompt obedience to such orders as I may issue is necessary. All persons must continue in the performance of their present duties unless otherwise instructed. Those who have made common cause with the enemy and so betrayed their country will be removed. It will be for the French people to provide their own civil administration and to safeguard my troops by the effective maintenance of law and order. The presence of the

enemy among you has made tragically necessary the aerial bombardment and military and naval operations which have caused you loss and suffering. This you have accepted courageously in the heroic tradition of France as part of the inevitable price we all must pay to attain our goal, which is our freedom.

Battle may inflict on you further deprivation. You will realise that munitions of war must come first, but every endeavour will be made to bring to you assistance that you need so sorely. I rely on your assistance in the final crushing of Hitlerite Germany and the re-establishment of the historic French liberties. When victory is won and France is liberated from her oppressors the French people will be free to choose at the earliest possible moment, under democratic methods and conditions, the Government under which they wish to live.

The enemy will fight with the courage of despair. He will neglect no measure, however ruthless, which he thinks may delay our progress. But our cause is just, our armies are strong. With our valiant Russian allies from the east we shall march to certain victory.

## The Beloved Choirmaster

**YORKSHIRE** has lost a Grand Old Man, and all England is the poorer. Sir Henry Coward, perhaps the world's greatest chorus master, has passed on at the age of 94.

Born in Liverpool, Henry Coward was the child of poor Sheffield parents, and while still a young lad was apprenticed to an uncle who was a cutler in Sheffield. That struggling Sheffield apprentice was to become a Freeman of Sheffield, and one of its foremost figures.

He left the cutlery trade to become a schoolteacher, and ad-

vanced rapidly to the post of headmaster. But Henry Coward had already given his heart to music, and founded the Sheffield Tonic Sol-fa Association in 1876; and at 39 he left the teaching profession to devote the rest of a long life to choral work. His genius for conducting choirs, and his many tours abroad, made him world famous.

Sir Henry Coward was a Yorkshireman, and he was at his happiest in Yorkshire among his own hard-working folk. But wherever good singing is appreciated his name will live.

## BIGGER AND BETTER PLANES

Sir Stafford Cripps, Minister of Aircraft Production, has been speaking with pride of the aircraft produced in our factories in the twelve months which ended in March; they numbered 27,273.

Year by year the aircraft we produce are bigger and better. Comparison by numbers alone substantially underestimates the progress we have made, for Britain is now producing 16 types of aircraft which were not in production in 1940, and more new types will come into production during the next twelve months.

According to the American Air Production Board British and American output since the beginning of the war amounts to 300,000 planes.

## Wing of Michael

In memory of Major-General Orde Charles Wingate, the heroic Commander-in-Chief of "Gideon Force," which defeated General Nasi and 40,000 Italian troops in the Gojjam mountains of Ethiopia, a Wingate Ward is to be endowed in the Princess Tsahai Memorial Hospital.

General Wingate was greatly revered in Ethiopia where he was affectionately known as Kinfa Michael, which means in Amharic Wing of Michael, in reference to his name and because he first appeared in Ethiopia by aeroplane on St Michael's Day. Later the General achieved even greater fame as Wingate of the Chindits.

Donations by C.N. readers to the Wingate Memorial should be sent to Lord Horder, at 1, Bloomsbury Court, High Holborn, W.C.1.

## NEW RULERS IN ITALY

**BOTH** the Royal House and the political leaders of Italy have revealed wisdom in widening the range of government now that their capital has been freed.

According to his promise King Victor Emmanuel promptly handed over his powers to Prince Umberto under the title of Lieutenant of the Realm.

As there was a feeling that it was not expedient that Marshal Badoglio should remain Prime Minister owing to his former allegiance to Mussolini, Signor Bonomi, a 71-year-old Liberal who had been in power before the Fascist coup, was empowered to form a government. The wise compromise adopted is that Prince Umberto has waived any oath of allegiance lest this should stand in the way of the setting up of a republic after the complete expulsion of the Germans from Italy. This change, said to be popular in the industrial north, could then be decided by a constituent assembly.

## Monty Knew the Germans

An amusing story is told of General Montgomery when he was serving in India as a young lieutenant.

The German battleship Gneisenau called at the port where he was stationed, and his CO gave orders that, as sports officer of his unit, he should arrange a game of football with the German visitors. Young Montgomery was warned to choose a second-rate team for diplomacy's sake, and to give the visitors a chance of winning the game.

When the CO heard the result—Britain 35, Germany 0—he was very perturbed. He sent for Monty, and asked him why he had disobeyed orders.

"I didn't feel like taking a chance with the Germans, sir," he answered.

## Gleaners of the Strawberry Patch

Strawberry time on the fertile slopes by the River Tamar means hard work gathering the sweet, luscious fruits.

Amid all the activities of the season, however, those who lie on sick beds in cottage homes and in local hospitals are not forgotten, and to army camps, too, go pleasant reminders.

It also means the observance of one of those charming, out-of-the-way customs of which the outside world hears little. Toward the close of the season neighbours and friends are invited to the strawberry patches to pluck what fruit remains for tomorrow's tea and winter jam.

## School Savings

In a recent speech Mr R. A. Butler paid tribute to school-children. There were now, he said, more than 30,000 school savings groups in England and Wales with a membership of some three million. Up to the end of March they had contributed over £55,000,000 to the War Savings Campaign, and already they had achieved nearly £2,000,000 towards their £10,000,000 target in the Salute the Soldier campaign.

## Little News Reels

**LETTERS** to our men in France need only a 1½d stamp if not more than one ounce.

Portugal has stopped all exports of wolfram to our enemies.

Sir Henry Wood has invited the BBC to become trustees for the future of Promenade Concerts.

Constable's famous picture, the Vale of Dedham, has been bought for the National Gallery of Scotland.

A huge new airport for London is being built near Staines.

Britain has 24,000 post offices, 5800 telephone exchanges, and 3,700,000 telephones.

Russia has had 4292 tanks from Great Britain, 3374 from America, and 1188 from Canada.

A record auction price of £16,800 has been paid for a portrait by Rubens.

No fewer than 3750 stories were entered for the Young People's China Short Story Competition. Entries are now being read and the result cannot be announced for at last two months.

ALLIED shipping losses in May were the lowest of the war.

Salute the Soldier Week in Glasgow produced a total of £14,237,606.

Table linen which belonged to Charles I has been sold at auction for 750 guineas, and an embroidered nightshirt case of Charles II for 900 guineas.

Colonel Joseph Beck, Foreign Minister of Poland when Germany invaded her, has died in Rumania at the age of 50.

Britain's smallest school at Rhyd village, North Wales, is to be closed down; it has only four pupils.

## Liberation News Reel

**THE** task of moving our invasion armies, according to a senior staff officer, was the equivalent of moving the population of two of our biggest cities, taking them overseas, and making arrangements for their domestic requirements.

An Allied destroyer, firing from 2000 yards off shore, was so contemptuous of the firing of the enemy batteries that she solemnly dropped anchor.

More than 13,000 sorties were made by Allied aircraft over the various beach-heads on D Day.

An American soldier who fell asleep while helping to service a troop-carrying glider in England woke up to find himself in France, whereupon he promptly joined in the great battle.

Men of the troop carrier A for Apple were appropriately enough the first Allied soldiers to land in France.

Wing-Commander Gibson, V C, led a force of Lancasters which crippled one German beach battery.

Amid the amazing variety of supplies and vehicles taken ashore in Normandy was General Montgomery's famous caravan which he uses as his field H Q.

The news of the invasion was enthusiastically received in Russia, where there was warm praise for the vast scale of our landings of airborne troops and the courage of our paratroopers.

Some months before D Day a party of British scientists landed on the invasion shores and crawled around taking samples of the soil for analysis.

## Youth News Reel

**ONTARIO** (Canada) Scouts have found a new way to make money for the various funds they support. They collect old bicycle inner tubes and resell them in the form of rubber bands now in short supply.

As a result of the Good Turn of two Guides, who have helped at the Manfield Hospital in Northampton every Thursday afternoon since November 1942, a four-week training course for wardmaids, housemaids, and kitchenmaids has been arranged at the Northampton College of Technology.

Scouts and Cubs of Tonbridge, Kent, took part in the recent national day of work by setting up a tinsmith's shop.

Before giving a crowded House of Commons the great news of D Day Mr Winston Churchill spoke for several minutes on the splendid progress of General Alexander's campaign in Italy.

A French girl hid and fed a paratrooper carried by the wind far into strongly-held enemy territory, and then rode behind him on a bicycle-made-for-two to the headquarters of his unit.

By the end of the first week the Allied bridge-head had been extended to 80 miles wide and 20 miles deep.

**THE** mascot of a US Ninth Air Force pilot, Flaps, a Scottish terrier, flew across the Channel with the first American paratroops to be dropped on French soil.

A German NCO of a coastal defence unit, when captured by Allied troops, admitted that the first intimation he received of the invasion was when he was blown out of bed by our shattering naval bombardment.

Marines were posted on the masts of our big ships to sight and explode, by rifle fire, any surface mines they saw.

Marshal Stalin said of the Allied invasion, "one cannot but recognise that in the whole history of war there has not been any such undertaking, so broad in conception, so grandiose in scale, so masterly in execution."

Within a week of D Day Winston Churchill was in Normandy, wearing his familiar Trinity House Cap.

Floating kitchens are providing hot meals for landing craft crews.

Boys serving with the N.F.S. who attain proficiency will be entitled to wear a white lanyard on their left shoulder.

Guides are very proud of 17-year-old Nancy Riach of Motherwell, said to be the fastest woman swimmer Britain has ever produced, who recently made a record of 1 minute 39.35 seconds for the 150 yards; Nancy learned to swim as a Brownie, gaining her swimmer's Badge when 10.

When more than 5000 Wolf Cubs and Scouts marched through Sydney at the close of Australia's recent Scout Week the parade was headed by about 300 National flags.



The Children's Newspaper, June 24, 1944

## THREE MILES TO FREEDOM

ONLY three miles separate imprisoned Denmark from free Sweden at the narrowest part of the Oeresund, which we call the Sound, where Hamlet's Elsinore faces Swedish Helsingborg. There are also many spots on the 25-mile stretch of beach between Copenhagen and Elsinore at which a good swimmer might elude the sharp eyes of the Gestapo and find his way through four miles of quiet Baltic water to the safe coast of Sweden.

And it is being done now every day. There is almost a continuous line of houses all along the shore from the northern suburbs of the Danish capital to Elsinore, and many bathing beaches which the Germans can hardly have closed; and at night it is not too difficult for anyone to slip across the great high-road which runs beside the beach, and so into the waters which are free on the other side.

No wonder the Danish Council of Liberation can not only meet almost every day in Copenhagen, but can get its reports across to Sweden, where thousands of other Danish patriots are waiting to hear them and pass them on to Britain.

## RUSSIAN TOMATOES

The Russian Government have sent to Britain some tomato seed which is now being tested in cultivation by growers in several parts of the country to see how the plants stand up to our climate.

The plants have already shown great powers of resistance to cold and windy weather, but they cannot survive frost. It is an interesting experiment.

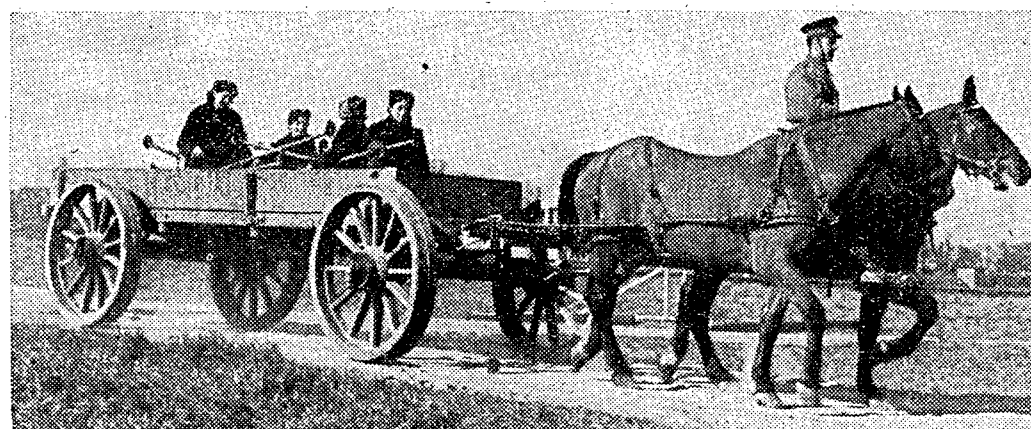
## AMERICA'S WOMEN VOTERS

This year is the 25th anniversary of the passing of the Act that gave the vote to American women. It is marked by the fact that the coming Presidential election will be the first in which women will be in a position to outvote the men. There are now estimated to be 44,043,669 men and 44,622,886 women on the voting lists. Nearly 8,000,000 of the male voters, too, are in the armed services, and may be therefore less likely to use their votes than if they were at home. On this account also women are able to outvote the men.

It is surely very remarkable that such a change in the sex ratio should have occurred, for it means the conversion from the excess of male voters of 2,800,000 in 1910 to the present great female majority. The women's vote will certainly add interest to the forthcoming elections in America.

## POET LETTER- WRITER

A bundle of letters written by the poet William Cowper to his friend, the Rev John Newton, during the years 1771-1799 realised £475 at a London sale. We are not surprised, for Cowper has won as enduring a fame in English Literature by the grace and sincerity of his letters as by his more familiar poems.



**Army Transport** ATS girls engaged in adjusting delicate instruments on experimental gun ranges are shown going to work.

## LIBERATION NOTES

Before Allied invasion troops began their assault on Northern France they were provided, as part of their pay, with franc notes, some dated 1944 and printed in America.

On the face of the 100-franc note is depicted the figure of a maiden bearing a torch in fashion similar to the Statue of Liberty, with a portion of the Seine as it flows through Paris as a background. On the reverse is a pastoral scene.

## THE AFRICAN AND HIS FOOD

Every day twelve different African soldiers are being medically inspected at one of the big hospitals of the East African Command.

The hospital staff is trying to find out how the foods which the normal African eats affect his health. So the examination includes anything from questions on the daily menu to chest measurements and tests for night-blindness.

Some of the Africans under examination are puzzled or suspicious: they cannot see the point of it all. But the doctors, when they have collected information about hundreds of individual cases, will be able to measure the good and bad effects of various African diets, and suggest improvements. The information gathered will be of the greatest help to the British East African medical departments which are already at work on nutritional problems among African peoples.

## YOUTH APPEALS TO YOUTH

From Northern Italy comes the news of heroic bands of young Italians fighting for national independence and liberty—fighting in the true Garibaldi tradition.

They have sent this appeal to the youth organisations of the Allied countries:

TODAY the young people of Italy are entitled to call themselves fighters. Dozens of them are killed daily fighting in the mountains, in factories, streets, and villages. Since September 1942 thousands have lost their lives, which is sufficient proof, that Italian youth does not give in. But we have not many weapons at our disposal. Since the disarmament by Fascist officers last autumn there is only one machine-gun to a hundred and one shot-gun to every ten young people, whereas the Fascists are well armed.

Our life in the mountains is hard. Young people in the occupied area who joined the partisans live exclusively on polenta. But in spite of this, and the Fascist death threat to all those whom they mobilise and do not report, the number of partisans is steadily increasing. You, the youth of the United Nations, can help us to hasten the day of liberation by urging your Governments to give us the necessary weapons to defend ourselves and to annihilate the enemy.

## GRAND OLD SEAMAN

A bitterly disappointed man is Skipper Joseph Kirby, of Hull, who offered his services to skipper a landing ship or for any other job in the invasion.

He was about to be given a job when the authorities became aware of his age—82—and of course had to refuse his offer. Joseph Kirby has served at sea since the age of 13, and was on board the ship which carried the first mail from Sydney via China to British Columbia.

## WHERE GREW FRATERNAL YEWS

With the purchase of Seathwaite Farm in Cumberland the National Trust takes yet another delightful corner of Lakeland into its keeping. At the end of lovely Borrowdale, Seathwaite is traditionally the wettest inhabited place in all England. Here on the hillside are the deserted plumbago mines, once the source of a lead pencil industry in Keswick, and here too are the remnants of Wordsworth's old yews,

Those fraternal four of Borrowdale  
Joined in one solemn and capacious grove;  
Huge trunks, and each particular trunk a growth  
Of intertwined fibres serpentine  
Up-coiling and inveterately convolved.

Alas for Wordsworth's brother yews! Their grandeur has departed with time and storm. The loveliness of Borrowdale remains—for all.

## THOSE AMERICAN SHIPS

MR JOSEPH KENNEDY, formerly U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain and at one time Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, has been directing attention to the merchant shipping tonnage of Great Britain and the United States. He speaks of the great disparity which has arisen through British tonnage losses and American rapid shipbuilding.

Mr Kennedy thinks that America should not insist upon having the biggest fleet. For Britain and Norway, he says, the merchant fleet is a matter of day-to-day survival. We are fighting to make the world safe for peaceful nations, and there is not much point if, after winning the war, others are deprived of making an opportunity to live.

After America has decided what vessels she needs, says Mr Kennedy, she should negotiate for the transfer of tonnage to foreign countries, taking into consideration, of course, the effect the use of these ships by foreign nations will have upon her own mercantile marine.

## A GOOD JOB WELL DONE

LMS and LNER railwaymen have just done a fine piece of work at a great North-West station. They were given 24 hours in which to dismantle an old signal-box and erect a new one controlling 156 sets of points. The work had to be done without interfering with the heavy traffic passing through the station, and it was finished with time to spare. Installing a signal-box is highly technical work involving thousands of electrical components and other fittings.

## TRANSPORT GOES TO WAR

A very interesting exhibition is being held in Charing Cross Underground Station, where it will continue until July 3.

Entitled Transport Goes Into Action, this exhibition of models reveals the great part transport is playing in the war effort.

Looking down on it all as from an aeroplane we see ships from an Atlantic convoy being unloaded at a British port. Some of their goods are being carried inland by train and canal, others out to sea again on coasters to smaller ports.

The model landscape shows houses and factories with workers on their way to work. On the roads are long convoys of trucks, while on the railways goods trains are on their journeys, civilian traffic being held up while they pass. At the end of the panorama is another model port at which the war materials, made from the convoy's cargoes, are being loaded on to an invasion convoy.

## SHADES OF MACBETH

While spotting for a British cruiser a naval officer was startled to see one of the trees of a wood uproot itself and move off. Directing the ship's fire against the offending spot, he watched one whole corner of the wood detach itself and depart in haste. It was a concentration of camouflaged lorries.

And thus another Birnam wood did come to Dunsinane.



**Chests—Out!** Boys of a physical training class at Bedford School respond to the command of their instructor, Sergeant-Major Whitelaw.





THE SPIRIT THAT CONQUERS

## Preparing For Future Elections

So many years have passed since either a general election of MPs or any election of local councillors took place that there is a grave danger that the public's appreciation of its hard-won rights may wane. Fortunately Mr Churchill is a champion of the expression of the people's will through the vote, and he appointed a Speaker's Conference on Electoral Reform which has reported on three of the four subjects which he referred to it.

The Report advocates no change in our method of electing representatives to Parliament or to local authorities, rejecting both Proportional Representation and the Alternative Vote. The Conference also rejects a proposal that the vote should be given to all persons as soon as they have reached the age of 18.

The most important proposal is that there should be a single register, or voting list, for both parliamentary and local government elections—with which most people will agree. Other main conclusions are: The breaking up of abnormally large constituencies, with a complete redistribution of parliamentary seats; the abolition of constituencies

which return two MPs (except the City of London); and the restriction of the vote for business premises to the husband or the wife, not both. No change is to be made in university representation.

The uniting of the parliamentary and local government voting lists will add 8,000,000 to the number of local government voters and greatly simplify the conduct of local elections.

The report favours a general redistribution of seats, to be undertaken by four Boundary Commissions, each with Mr Speaker as chairman.

These Commissions are to begin work immediately after the completion of a temporary scheme, under which a general election may have to be held. This temporary scheme provides for the sub-division of such "abnormally large" constituencies as Hendon, Romford, and St Albans into two, or even three or four; and under it there may be a temporary increase of MPs not exceeding 25, whereas under the main scheme the number of MPs will remain almost exactly the same as at present.

The Speaker's Conference has still to report on the important question of election expenses.

## Ceylon's Technical Cadets

Two hundred boys of Ceylon, between the ages of 16 and 18, wearing white shirts, blue shorts, and towel turbans—that is the Ceylon Boys' Technical Training Corps, one year after its inauguration.

The corps was initiated by Colonel Kotelawala, Ceylon's Minister of Communications and Works, to train boys for the skilled handling of machines. Their education in the corps includes boxing, outdoor sports, music, and singing. But the glory of the school is its machine-shop, where theory is put into practice, with 24 kinds of machines, many more types of tools, and various fitting benches. Under expert guidance the boys learn to make spanners, hammers, and other tools, including precision instruments correct to a thousandth of an inch. Their products already have an eager market in Government factories and the industries of the island.

The Ceylon boys are as keen at their work as are our British cadets. There is, of course, no conscription in the colony, although many hundreds of Ceylon men have volunteered for service in comradeship with Britain. These cadets of Ceylon are of the same mettle, and, when they reach the position of prefect or monitor in the corps, are proud to wear NCO stripes. A hundred of their picked cadets were sent as aero-mechanics to help in the starting of a Fleet Air Arm Training School in Ceylon.

The Technical Training Cadets know they are training to help in the war effort of the United Nations. But they know they are training for a peace job as well. The originators of the scheme looked even beyond the war needs to the period of post-war industrial expansion which will need the skill and initiative of the youth in Ceylon as in other countries.

## Cecil Sharp's Great Work

IN September 1940 Cecil Sharp House near Primrose Hill in London was blitzed. It has now reopened its doors. This is a notable event, and it may well presage a further great revival in English folk music.

Certainly that is the view of the English Folk Dance and Song Society, of which Cecil Sharp House is the centre. People who imagine that the English are a nation too self-conscious to "dress up" and "let themselves go" in expressing their traditional music and dancing may be interested to know that the Society had 20,000 members when this war broke out, in town and village, in schools and clubs, at home and overseas.

The importance of Cecil Sharp was that he revived old-time English music and dancing after a sleep of centuries.

With the passing of the great Elizabethans English music passed under a cloud, to emerge in greater glory in our own time.

But all the while the ordinary people, and particularly the seamen, kept their English tunes. The Dibbins, Charles and his more famous nephew Thomas, were not to be kept down, but won and maintained their place in the hearts of seafaring men and their families. Their new work helped to maintain in British homes the love of the grand old shanties which, with so many country songs of England like Shepherds Hey! and Greensleeves, inspired Cecil Sharp in his grand campaign for an Elizabethan revival in the music and dance of his native land.

Merrie England was not called so without reason. It was made merry by Englishmen, and Cecil Sharp proved it.

## The Show Went On

PLUCK and obstinate determination displayed themselves just as variously in this year's blitz as in that of three years ago. The same spirit was to be seen everywhere, carrying on as though there was no disturbance at all, or at least as though nobody was going to let the Luftwaffe disturb the calm and even tenor of daily life.

At a small London theatre, not one of those popular West End playhouses, but a theatre built with devoted hands by amateurs who loved their art, incendiary bombs one night destroyed the precious and carefully collected wardrobe, and severely damaged the auditorium and the stage. A new production, set for two nights later, was faced with lost costumes, burnt-out scenery, and debris everywhere.

But, as they say in the theatre world, "the show goes on." The whole company set to work to remedy the damage, clear up the mess, to replace, clean, or repair all that had been destroyed. For two solid days they worked like heroes, and the curtain went up as arranged. The performance was an outstanding success. What made it all the more creditable was that most of the audience, as they sat applauding, had not the least idea that the little theatre had been blitzed in any way. And nobody told them.

## EDITOR'S TABLE

### The Princess and the Children

It was fitting that Princess Elizabeth's first public engagement in the City of London should have been undertaken in the interests of children.

The Princess has lately become President of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and the occasion was the Society's Diamond Jubilee meeting, held in the Egyptian Hall of London's Mansion House.

In the same hall 60 years ago the NSPCC was founded by a group of prominent people, the Earl of Shaftesbury and Dr Barnardo among them, and since that time it has come to the help of 5,480,000 children. It is unfortunately true that there is great need for the Society's work even in our day and it was mentioned at the meeting that each year 100,000 children are helped, the Society maintaining a representative in every town or village of more than 2000 inhabitants.

The C N echoes the hope of the Princess "that in the days to come, every child's life will be a free and happy one."

### For All the New Crusaders

How appropriate for the days immediately preceding the Invasion is this passage from the Pre-Reformation Church Service. It is the Antiphon for the Magnificat sung on Trinity Sunday, which this year fell on June 4:

*Arm yourselves and be ye men of valour, and be in readiness for the conflict; for it is better for us to perish in battle than to look upon the outrage of our nation and our altars.*

*As the Will of God is in Heaven, even so let Him do.*

## CARRY ON

### Let Us Ask Ourselves

ARE we willing to share the prosperity of the past, so that happiness may be widespread in the future? Are we reconciled to the thought that life may be a little harder for us and a little easier for others. Can we spare the little vanities that have meant so much? Can we give the world a little more and take a little less? Can we live a little less selfishly and a little more Christianly?

If so, there is hope for the new world that is building itself already in the hearts of men. There is hope for the foundation of a Christian Peace for Europe which will lead to the beginning of the Brotherhood of Man. If its seeds are sown in our hearts now the harvest will be reaped in a world transformed.

Arthur Mee

## CARELESS

Nor always have Fleet Street men been the worthiest trustees of the King's English; therefore it has been doubly refreshing to hear a voice of Fleet Street raised in the cause of spoken English.

It is the voice of authority too—that of Mr T. B. Lawrence, master of the Fleet Street Choir—and it was heard by the Musical Association in an address on the preservation of the purity of vocal English.

In the training of his choir Mr Lawrence is constantly faced with the problem of proper and distinct pronunciation, and he referred to the growing habit of slipshod speaking, a habit more

### Smart Boy Wanted

WE learn from an official pamphlet on The Young Worker that the number of office boys available is steadily shrinking and in ten years' time may be halved.

From a long and close observation of office boys we would suggest that this much-to-be-regretted shortage will affect the gaiety of offices rather than their efficiency.

## Under the E

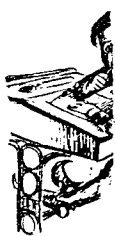
PEOPLE have become speed-minded. Realise that they belong to the human race.

A SOLDIER says that when he travels he hopes to get lifts. He would find them in the large stores.

FEW people have time on their hands. Wear wrist-watches instead.

A RESOLUTION at a council meeting was passed by a large majority. Perhaps they did not notice it.

Peter Wants to



If buying house is invest

## So Nature

As a fond mother, when the day is o'er,  
Leads by the hand her little child to bed,  
Half willing, half reluctant to be led,  
And leave his broken playthings on the floor,  
Still gazing at them through the open door,  
Nor wholly reassured and comforted  
By promises of others in their stead,

### GOD'S ONLY DEMAND

GOD will not seek thy race,  
Nor will He ask thy birth:  
Alone He will demand of thee  
What hast thou done on Earth?  
A Persian saying

### Look For the Miracles

It were an impossible miracle if none befell thee: look for their coming, therefore: each day make thyself sure of many.

Jean Paul Richter



## SS TALK

catching than measles. His advice is, Speak As You Sing, and Sing as You Speak.

Mr Lawrence is not alone in his concern at the careless use of English, for, quite recently, Professor B. Ifor Evans, Educational Director of the British Council, referred to the general level of English-speaking in the House of Commons as "deplorable."

Truly none of us is blameless in this matter. Let us cease from this lazy forgetting of consonants and deforming of vowels. Let us be on our guard against Careless Talk, even when only vocal purity, and not national security, is at stake.

### Prayer For Victory

When war's dark night at length shall end,  
And peace shall on the earth descend,  
Lord, grant that as a nation we  
May chastened, sobered people be.

Let life of what is false be shorn,  
Each idol from its throne be torn;  
Help us to see with undimmed eyes  
The duty that before us lies.

David Effayes

## Editor's Table

STRAWBERRIES are not much use after the third year. Ours rarely last five minutes.

**Puck** TRAVELLERS are told to let a crowded train go. They can't stop it.

**o Know** EVERY composer of music has his favourite key. And makes it serve its turn.

PEOPLE who turn in their toes lack self-confidence. Are afraid they may be turned out.

**a London** SOME people live from moment to moment. Can't do it otherwise.

## Leads Us

Which, though more splendid,  
may not please him more;  
So Nature deals with us, and  
takes away  
Our playthings one by one, and  
by the hand  
Leads us to rest so gently, that  
we go  
Scarce knowing if we wished to  
go or stay,  
Being too full of sleep to under-  
stand  
How far the unknown transcends  
the what we know. *Longfellow*

### The Message With Every Child

EVERY child comes into the world with the message that God does not yet despair of man.

*Rabindranath Tagore*

### NATURE'S BALANCE

THE wings of Time are black and white,  
Pied with morning and with night.  
Mountain tall and ocean deep  
Trembling balance duly keep.

*Emerson*

### A Five-Year Plan

LORD WOOLTON, the Minister of Reconstruction, has made it plain that he is to have ready a Five-Year Plan of Public Works, worked out to the last degree, as part of the Government Work For All Scheme. As Lord Woolton put it, "we must be ready, as we were not ready in the past, so that in the event of a sudden decline in employment, we can without any delay put in hand work for which plans have been worked out to the final detail."

He went on to say, "during those tragic years, when 2½ million people could not find employment, there were many who came to the conclusion that public works were not the solution of that part of the problem, but that was because they had not been prepared beforehand."

The point is one of great importance. We now have the definite promise that the moment the curve of employment begins to fall either the local authority or the Government will take steps to check that fall at once.

### Without Favour

OPINIONS of the loudspeaker differ very greatly.

Indispensable to our radio, it brings pleasure to many and, particularly in these summer days when windows and doors are left wide open, annoyance to not a few.

Many an entertainer has it blared into "popularity," but on the other hand the loudspeaker has the power to "soothe a savage beast," to misquote a line from William Congreve. For we hear that the mad career of a runaway horse at Sutterton, in Lincolnshire, was brought to an end by a sharp call of WHOA! from the loudspeaker of a police car.

We like to hold the balance evenly in matters so controversial!

### SUMMER

SWEET Summer holds her royal court.  
The pageantry of leaves and flowers  
Moves on though men are hard  
at war—  
They cannot cheat her of her hours.

The magic dawn, with rising song,  
The lush, green fields, with dew  
impearled,  
The myriad hues which Summer wears,  
Bring solace to a stricken world.

No wanton can her progress bar,  
Eternal is her royal way.  
Though wrack and ruin lie below,  
Still Summer sunshine crowns  
the day.

If all of us would mark and learn,  
When Summer's glory rules our  
land,  
How great is God, how puny  
man.

Then all would start to under-  
stand. *W. Spencer Leeming*

## The Task of a Lifetime

THE high honour of the Order of Merit has been awarded to Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A., the distinguished architect.

To begin a work at 23 that will take sixty years for its completion seems as much a mark of faith as of rugged optimism. Such, however, is the life work set himself by Sir Giles in designing Liverpool Cathedral, which celebrates next month the 40th anniversary of the laying of its foundation-stone by King Edward the Seventh. The architect at 64 sees his tower, which will be 331 feet high, rising slowly to completion over parts of the building for whose entire design he was accepted as creator as a youngster of three-and-twenty.

Liverpool has indeed reason to trust in the ability of youth. It has in its magnificent St George's Hall the product of another juvenile architect of genius. He was Harvey Elmes, who also was chosen when 23, from upwards of 80 competitors to design the building which has become world-famous as one of the noblest examples of modern classical architecture. The building is notable for the fact that whereas the exterior is entirely Greek, the interior, with its vast hall, is an exact copy of a part of the colossal baths of Caracalla at Rome, and so, of course, Roman in style.

The task of Elmes was less gigantic than that of Sir Giles Scott, but he died before it was completed, a Jamaican grave receiving him when he was only 34. Charles Robert Cockerell, another genius, who at 33 crowned St Paul's Cathedral with its golden cross and ball, had to spend five years in completing the great Hall, but the conception was that of youth, as is Liverpool's rising Cathedral. We trust that, like Wren, Sir Giles will live to see the completion of his monument.

## The Farm School

AN idea put forward by Mr J. A. Cox, Education Director for Bolton, in Lancashire, which duly received the sanction of the town's Education Committee, means that this summer about 240 children in their last school year will spend at least three months "down on the farm" on the windswept moors outside Bolton. There they will farm, study botany, nature, local geography, and geology. They will look after themselves, eat regularly, get plenty of sleep, and have a real chance to display their natural gifts.

Mr Cox told a C.N. correspondent that a time for mental relaxation in the school life of every child was a necessity; they became tired of mind and showed little desire for post-school education. "We can, in time, right the wrongs of under-nourishment, unhealthiness, indiscipline, and all the others," added Mr Cox, "by establishing centres or camp schools for boys and girls in their last years of school life."

It is good to know that Birmingham, ever progressive, is in line with Bolton in this matter. Children from Aston Commercial School are spending two months in a farm camp school at Broom in Warwickshire, helping neighbouring farmers. It is a scheme which other towns would do well to copy.

## MIDSUMMER

WILL this be the last Midsummer of the war? Five high summers have come and gone since the great challenge of tyranny descended on Britain and the free peoples of the world.

Midsummer, the time of merriment and gladness, became in 1939 a time of ominous waiting and wondering. We have watched without respite the battles swaying across the world. Now this Midsummer we are looking towards the end, for Midsummer 1944 brings the mightiest movements in all human history to a climax on the European stage.

The high days will go down to history as among the great days of time. Just as the great summer of 1940 saw Britain meet the mightiest challenge in her history, so the summer of 1944 sees the Allies striking blows that will decide the world's future for years to come.

### Phantasy and Reality

Midsummer has always been a great marching time for soldiers. Napoleon considered it to be his great opportunity for a campaign. The "glorious first of June" is written large in English naval history. It was just after Midsummer, 1914 that the world looked tragedy in the face and entered on the grim period of change which has shadowed its life ever since.

This lovely period is traditional among us as a time for gaiety and romance. It was the season that Shakespeare chose for his loveliest romance. He set it in the green glades when the night was warm and balmy enough for the little spirits to come out to play. This is romantic Midsummer. Take romance away and you rob an English summer of much of its charm. It is indeed the time when long, long hours may be given to friendship and colour, romance and wonder.

Stern deeds, however, than those of Shakespeare's invention are now being done, and the actors are performing on a vaster stage and in grimmer uniforms than the Court of Titania knew. This Midsummer is no dream, neither is it a madness. Here is

no Warwickshire glade in which we may recline in idle ease as we watch a phantasy.

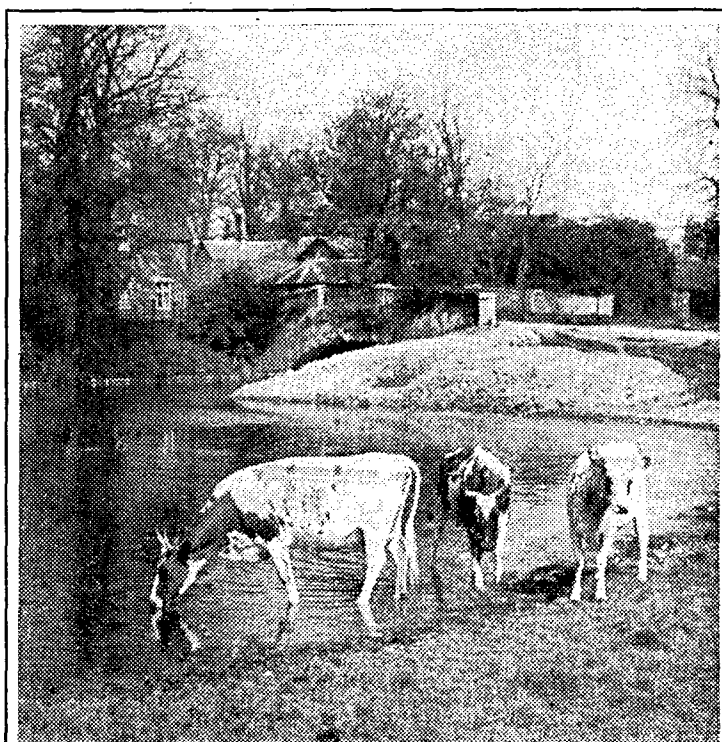
For we know that our single task here and now is to restore a world in which men will be able once more to dream with Titania and her attendants, to go a-hunting with the Duke, and to sport with Bottom and his company. It is to restore a world fit to dream in that this Midsummer is dedicated, for too long mankind has lived in haunting fear, moving warily down the grim and gloomy thickets of bitter experience. Midsummer 1944 bids us to be ready to restore colour and romance, fable and folk-lore, to a colourless and sad world. A generation has grown up lacking the fun and the wonder of this lovely time. Young people have been burdened with responsibilities unsought and undeserved. Too many of them have had to offer their lives on the altar of war before they had even tasted the fruits of living.

Let us pray that this Midsummer will herald the full sunlight again. This war is the portal to a new kind of world, and Midsummer 1944 is the arch of that gateway. Through this arch pours the youth of the world in the great and final adventure of deliverance. So, Hail to Midsummer 1944!

## SON OF A HEROINE

Four-year-old Tony Everitt, of Saffron Walden, whose widowed mother died in an attempt to rescue an American airman from a crashed bomber, is to have a State pension, and the Minister of Pensions has stated that he regards himself as the child's foster-father.

Members of the U.S. Army Air Force have also raised a big fund for Tony, and the Mayor of Saffron Walden has started a Fund for a hospital wing to commemorate his mother's bravery.



THIS ENGLAND

By a cooling stream—a scene in Woodhall Park, Hertfordshire



## AN ENGLISH SHRINE IN ROME

ENGLISHMEN, victorious in Rome, need not feel utter strangers there. Indeed, they may truly declare, "Here was a home of my fathers." In Saxon days so great was the number of hardy pilgrims who made the long and hazardous journey from England to Rome that they created their own colony in the Eternal City, calling it the Borgo, or Burgh, of the Saxons.

It was at Rome, 1255 years ago, that Caedwallar, King of Wessex, died. Ina, his successor, founded a Saxon school in the city. Alfred the Great spent a fruitful year of his boyhood in Rome, his piety and intelligence exciting such admiration in Pope Marinus that he gave the royal stripling what was believed to be a piece of the True Cross. In 1154, the year that Henry the Second became King of England, and Thomas Becket his Chancellor, the Hertfordshire-born Nicholas Breakspear became Adrian the Fourth, the only English Pope.

Rome has more of English Becket than we possess. The vast treasure presented to his shrine, which made Canterbury the richest of all cathedrals, vanished in the 24 wagons sent for the purpose by Henry the Eighth, and Canterbury has nothing but memories of its murdered Archbishop. Rome not only has a church dedicated to him, but also shows relics of St Thomas. In two little bags preserved at the church of St Mary Maggiore are treasured portions of the dead man's brain, piously collected after the dreadful deed in our famous cathedral. In the church, too, where this relic of Becket is preserved is something from a land whose reality he would have sternly denied. Gold in the roof covering the last known vestige of this man whose own tomb was once Canterbury's treasury of riches is the very first gold—given by Ferdinand and Isabella to Pope

Alexander the Sixth—that was brought from South America to Spain.

One feature of Rome that English Service men will be shown is the English College, which has a history they will appreciate. So extortionate were the prices that English pilgrims had to pay Roman innkeepers in the 14th century that John, the son of Peter, an English seller of rosaries in Rome, bequeathed his house and garden there as a hospice for his travelling countrymen. As such, the institution was maintained until the time of our Queen Elizabeth, when it was converted into the English College, since known to myriads of visitors, and now to myriads more.

### A Medal For Bob

Bob, the mascot of the Royal West Kents, is the first dog to win the Dickin Medal, the Allied Forces Mascot Club's award for life-saving by animals. The decoration has been pinned to his collar in front of the regiment on parade in Italy.

The deed which won this medal for Bob took place in North Africa, where, at a place called Green Hill, he was out on patrol one dark and rainy night. Suddenly Bob stopped dead in his tracks and refused to move. The patrol took the hint and stopped too, and discovered that they were almost in the enemy's lines. Thanks to Bob's warning they returned to camp without losing a single man.

## For Services Rendered

THE King's Birthday Honours List this year is studded with brilliant names—a galaxy including many from the realms of letters, science, and the arts.

To the select company of holders of the Order of Merit no fewer than three names have been added: Lord Passfield, still better known as Sidney Webb, the Grand Old Man of Socialism; Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, R.A.; and Sir Henry Dale, renowned in the field of medical research and President of the Royal Society.

To set the seal on his services to music Sir Henry Wood has been made a Companion of Honour. And to mark their great healing work knighthoods have been bestowed on Professor Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, and his close associates, Professor Howard Florey and Dr Percival Hartley. Among other new knights are Professor C. H. Reilly, a great figure in the revival of town-planning; Alfred Clapham, Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, and a distinguished antiquarian; W. W. Wakefield, M.P., great sportsman, and just as great as a leader of youth; William Llewelyn Davies, Librarian of the National Library of Wales; Mr Alwyn Crow, inventor of the anti-aircraft rocket gun; and that fine old English gentleman, actor, and cricketer, C. Aubrey Smith, who has long kept the British flag flying high in Hollywood.

### WHEN SCOT MEETS SCOT

Sir Kenneth Clark, the brilliant Director of the National Gallery, must have had a shock when Mr Andrew Maclaren, Labour M.P. for Burslem, told the Commons the other day that one of our most famous paintings was a "fake." He meant Titian's The Cornaro Family, purchased for the nation in 1929 by Sir Kenneth Clark's predecessor for £122,000.

Andrew Maclaren (who knows something about art, for he is perhaps the cleverest caricaturist the House has known since the days of Sir Frank Lockwood) avers that Titian never saw the picture. Sir Kenneth, however, who has been Director of the National Gallery for ten years, though he is not yet 41, says that the Cornaro is the finest, best-preserved, and most unquestionably authentic Titian masterpiece known.

It is a case of two determined Scots in disagreement, always an impressive sight for Southrons.

### Butter Cuts and Aussies

During June and July the butter ration for Australians will be cut to six ounces a week per person. After that they may be able to return to their normal half a pound a week.

O happy Australians, we envy you your chance of buttered toast!

## ARCTURUS THE BRILLIANT

By the C.N. Astronomer

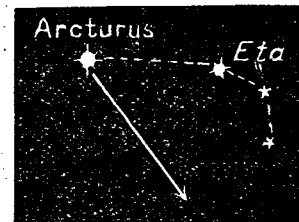
JUPITER and Mars will be in conjunction on July 5 and will provide the most interesting feature in the twilight of the evening sky, as they gradually appear closer together, while on Saturday, June 24, the presence of the crescent Moon between them will be an additional attraction.

At 7.38 p.m. on Saturday the Moon actually passes in front of Mars, thus occulting the planet, but as this occurs in daylight a telescope is needed to perceive the event. In the course of the succeeding four hours, by which time the sky will have become dark enough to see Mars, the Moon will have moved about four times her own apparent width away to the left of Mars and much nearer to the far brighter Jupiter; thus the three bodies will appear almost in

—5000 miles a minute! Owing to the enormous distance of Arcturus, which is 2,563,250 times farther than our Sun, the distance travelled by Arcturus is not obvious even in a lifetime, except by precise measurements. However, it amounts to the apparent width of the Moon in about 700 years, and is in a south-westerly direction as seen by us at the present time.

This great speed of Arcturus is unusual for stars of his immensity. Usually it is only the very small and almost burnt-out stars that require great speeds, a curious circumstance apparently resulting from their great loss of mass, that is material, due to radiant energy through the long ages of their existence. The speed of our Sun through space is about 730 miles a minute, and represents a fair average for stars of this mass.

Allusion has frequently been made to the extent to which bodies very far from one another are able to convey their energy across vast intervals of space and time. Arcturus affords a dramatic example of this, when its radiant energy was used by human adaptation to open the Chicago Exhibition of Human Progress in 1933. The radiant energy in the light from Arcturus was, by means of a great telescope, focused upon a photo-electric cell and then conveyed to the gates of the Chicago Exhibition. There a finely-adjusted mechanical contrivance was operated by the energy that had just arrived from Arcturus, but which had left that great sun 40½ years before. All that time it had been speeding across space, this small portion being destined to expend itself in opening that great exhibition and switching on all its lights. An interesting sidelight was that the operation was guided by the Mind of Man, and would not have happened without his thought, which thus linked our little Earth with the great far-off Arcturus. G. F. M.



The arrow shows the apparent path and extent of the proper motion of Arcturus during the next 2000 years

line, with Jupiter at a much higher altitude than Mars, the Moon being in between.

The brilliant yellow sun Arcturus, referred to in the last article, can be seen away to the left, almost due south and rather more than midway from the horizon toward overhead. Arcturus belongs to the class of giant stars, and would appear a most glorious object were it as near to us as our Sun, for Arcturus has a measured diameter of about 23,300,000 miles, compared with our Sun's 864,000 miles. Consisting of a whirling and tumultuous mass of fire mist in which the golden hue predominated, we may imagine how grand the spectacle would be; but then, think of the heat, 100 times greater than that of our Sun.

Arcturus is a sun at a much earlier stage of its existence than our Sun; it is remarkable in many ways, most of all as regards its speed through space

## A Useful Hobby

THOUSANDS of young people in this country and in America are transforming their hobby into a vital part of the war effort. Identification of aircraft, which is a matter of life and death to many fighting men, cannot be taught by means of photographs. This power of recognition can only be acquired by extensive study of the actual subjects, or exact replicas of them. Air-minded boys and girls are doing their bit towards victory by building these urgently required models. They are built to a scale of one to seventy-two, that is, one inch equal to six feet, and are painted black so that the recognition of real planes may be by shape rather than by colour and insignia.

The Americans in particular have encouraged this hobby, and the models are built under the supervision of the U.S. Office of Education, with the aid of local authorities, who see that the models are well enough con-

structed to serve the purpose of recognition.

The aviation cadets at certain training schools in America look through an eyepiece into an oblong box, about two feet square and eight feet long. The model passes across the back of the box, and for a second the box is illuminated by a flash of light. With this glimpse of the model the cadet is expected to be able to identify the type of aircraft. These models can also be used for range estimation tests, for the models seen at seventy feet are exactly the same as the real thing at about a mile distant.

### Helicopter Ambulance

A new type of helicopter was taken to Alaska recently, where it was assembled and given a series of tests. This helicopter, which has a small ambulance litter fitted to the forward part of the plane beside the pilot's seat, is to be used for rescue work as it can land on any small clearing.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### The Butterfly and the Kitten

ELSIE's kitten was a pretty little creature. She called it Fluff, and was so fond of it that she took it about with her all day long.

One morning Elsie had to go to the dentist to have a tooth out.

"I think, Mummie," she said, "I shouldn't mind it



half so much if I could take Fluff."

But her mother shook her head. Elsie begged in vain, and she went off at last, leaving the kitten shut up safely in the tool-shed.

There pussy would have remained but for the butterfly which her brother Tom saw

hovering over the shrubs in the garden. It was a beauty.

Away he went for his net which was in the tool-shed. In dashed Tom, caught up the net, and ran out again.

And then, soon after, back came Elsie, happy and smiling, for the tooth was out and it had not hurt her a bit. But one glance at the tool-shed and the smile fled. The door was wide open and the kitten was nowhere to be seen.

"Who has let my pussy out?" she asked angrily. And then, as she caught sight of Tom's tell-tale face, she cried, "It was you! I'll never forgive you! Fluff's lost, and I shall never see her again."

"Yes, you will!" cried Mummie. "Look up!"

The children looked, and there, perched on a bough of the old apple-tree, sat pussy, looking down on them.

"And I'm sorry I left the door open," said Tom. "Fluff isn't lost. I'll soon get her down for you."

But Fluff came down of her own accord, and so everybody was happy again.



The Children's Newspaper, June 24, 1944

# THE NORMAN CONQUEST IN REVERSE

As the Allied assault troops moved in to the beaches of Normandy at dawn on June 6 thousands of the men saw a brilliant rainbow in the sky.

It appeared as a good omen, for the rainbow colours are the badge of General Eisenhower's headquarters staff. It also seemed to make complete the Allied reversal of the Norman Conquest of England which also was heralded in the sky.

From Normandy came Duke William to conquer a kingdom; from the land of his triumph emerged forces that are to subjugate nothing, but faithfully to redeem an entire continent from barbarous tyranny.

When Harold became king of England, his people saw with fear and trembling a "fiery star" in the English sky blazing nightly with fierce and growing intensity, a spectacle which, they thought, boded ill for England. In reality it was what we now call Halley's Comet. The Normans who also saw the "star," accepted it as prophetic of fair fortune. In the Bayeux Tapestry we are shown the comet gleaming angrily over a cowering King Harold.

It was on September 28, 1066, that the Normans landed at Pevensey, and four whole days passed before Harold, warring in the north of England, heard of the arrival of his foes; we had our invasion news almost immediately the landings from sea and air began.

It was from the little Norman port of Dives-sur-Mer, that the Conqueror set out—with one Roger de Montgomery at his side. His fleet, including vessels for his stores and horses, numbered 640, and he had about 12,000 men; our fleet was 4000 strong as to main elements, with supplementary craft several thousand in number. Tranquil weather helped the Normans on their way to England; but within a very few hours of our sailing for Normandy half a gale had been lashing the Channel. Our ships, however, were superior to gale and currents, and all night long aeroplanes, unimaginable to old-

time Norman minds, rode the winds to prepare the way for the men of the coming armada.

Day and night, through rough weather and smooth, our ships made the Channel populous as a humming dockyard; William's ships, once they safely arrived off Pevensey, were drawn up on shore, as Caesar's had been on the Kentish coast eleven centuries earlier. William's battle-front extended over but a thousand yards, fewer yards than the miles of coastline upon which we may be progressively descending along the European seaboard as the present operations develop.

Films, photographs, and paintings will preserve the records of the immense events now hourly happening after this breakout of forces from our embattled kingdom. They will do well if they serve their purpose as long as the record of the Norman triumph here. This is the incomparable Bayeux Tapestry already mentioned.

It is a strip of linen, once white, 231 feet long and 20 inches wide, with 72 pictures worked by needle in worsteds of eight colours by the fingers of Norman—or it may be English—ladies, telling the deathless story of the Conquest of England. Once thought to be the work of the wife of the Conqueror and her ladies, it is now believed to have been wrought, possibly in England, at the instance of Odo, Bishop of Bayeux, half-brother of the Conqueror. Bayeux, home of "the noblest monument in the world relating to our old English history," as it is called, made it for centuries a draping of its cathedral inner walls on high days and festivals.

# A Jew and His People

There will one day be a stirring story to tell of the part synthetic rubber has played in this war, and there can be little doubt that one of the heroes of the story will prove to be Dr Weizmann.

What he has done with rubber for the Allies in this war he did for them in the manufacture of cordite in the last. During a critical period of the First World War Great Britain began to run short of wood alcohol for producing acetone, vital in the making of cordite; and when the position was rapidly becoming desperate if we were to continue fighting, Mr Lloyd George had the good fortune to hear from the Editor of the Manchester Guardian of a professor in that city who might help. He was Chaim Weizmann, a Jew.

Mr Lloyd George invited the professor to London, told him of the urgent need, and asked what he could do. "I will work day and night," said Weizmann, and he did. The result was a process which enabled us to manufacture acetone from maize, and even from horse chestnuts.

For his services Weizmann might have received almost anything for which he cared to ask, but when Mr Lloyd George suggested some reward the Jew asked only that something might be done to repatriate his people, a request that was answered by the Balfour Declaration on the National Home for Jews.

# CAEN IN OUR COUNTRYSIDE

At Caen, where our modern Crusaders have been fighting so desperately, lies one of the greatest of our warrior kings, William the Conqueror. His eldest son, Robert, was a leader in the first Crusade, winning for the Christians, who rallied to his battle cry of Normandy, their first victory over the infidel. That was, alas, the only good thing we read of the man who lacked the many virtues of that hard yet just king who founded a new dynasty in our land, but returned to die in his old dukedom.

Englishmen engaged in the recent fighting at Caen must have been stirred by thronging memories from history. Caen was the town in Normandy of William the Conqueror, and of Matilda, his queen.

Both William and Matilda were buried at Caen, in churches of their own building. Matilda's

# THE COWBOY POET

By the C N Correspondent in America

OUT on the rolling plains and hills of Arizona lives Gail Gardner, the cowboy poet of America's great south-west. He was born there forty-two years ago in the Arizona town of Prescott. Horses and saddles, the open range and the rising hills, have always been his world and his inspiration.

His friend Charles Franklin Parker, the authority on Arizona literature, says that Gardner went to a famous school, Phillips Exeter in New England, and then to Dartmouth College. But he never lost his love for Arizona. He came back to the cow-camps and the rodeos even after he had been a pilot in the air corps of the last war.

Gail Gardner says that his songs have been written to amuse cowboys. They are for the cowboy who looks after half-wild cattle in the brush, and they are sung round the fires on the Arizona ranges. One of the most famous is the song of the cowboys who caught the devil, branded him, and fastened knots in his tail. It begins:

Away up high in the Sierr  
Petes,  
Where the yellor pines grow tall,  
Ole Sandy Bob an' Buster Jig,  
Had a rodeer camp last fall.

Oh, they taken their hosses and  
runnin' irons,  
And mebbe a dawg or two,  
An' they lowed they'd brand all  
the long-yered calves,  
That came within their view.

But Arizona's cowboy poet also has a great love for the im-

mense outdoors of his great State. He sings of

Indian flowers,  
Blooming the same,  
Red summer sunsets  
Matching their flame.  
Cliffs of vermillion,  
Shadows of blue,  
Feathery pine boughs,  
The wind whispers through.  
Dawn on the mountains,  
Dusk on the plain,  
In my Arizona—  
It's August again.

Whenever Gail appears at the meetings of the cattle-men in the south-west there is a call for his poems. For the cowboy in the loneliness of these wide spaces appreciates the beauty of words matched to the beauty of the lovely world in which he lives. It is this world that Gail Gardner and many others like him in the Western world of America are describing today, and so adding to the riches of the world's literature tomorrow.

# NEW U S STAMPS

The U S postal authorities have just issued four new stamps. Two of them commemorate transport systems and the part they have played in the war, and the other two new stamps do honour to the Philippines and Korea.

FORWARD  
TO  
VICTORY!



Apologies to customers unable to obtain BASSETT'S—due to Zoning

# Don't Despise Summer Colds

Never let Summer Colds get a real grip, especially with children. They are dangerous things. Fortunately, it's easy to prevent them developing.

There's an old-fashioned recipe which has grown so popular that chemists everywhere are keeping it made up, bottled and ready for use. It's the "Parmint" recipe.

One dose of this Parmint Syrup will ease the most stubborn cough. A few more will start to clear it right away. Just try it and see.

It's grand for children too. Quite safe and with a flavour kiddies positively like.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Parmint Syrup from your chemist to-day and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle, including tax.

NOTE.—If you want to make it up yourself ask for a 1 oz. bottle of the Parmint Concentrated Essences (price 3/11). It is even more economical that way.

# SHORTHAND

DUTTON ONE-WEEK SHORT-HAND is accepted by the Services and examining bodies. Learn in 12 2-hour lessons. Send 3d. Stamps for First Lesson. Write Dept. C.N., 92-3, Great Russell St., W.C.1.

# IN ONE WEEK

tomb has remained resplendent down the ages; only a stone slab marks the site of the Conqueror's, for, maddened by persecution, Huguenots despoiled his sepulchre, casting forth his bones like rubbish. Not a pinch of dust remains of that most formidable man of his era.

But Caen has another interest for Englishmen less commonly known. It has famous quarries of fine limestone. During centuries when inadequate roads made heavy transport in England frequently impossible, great quantities of Caen stone were readily and cheaply shipped to England. Canterbury Cathedral, like that of Winchester, is built of Caen stone, as are many English churches.

Very many, indeed, are those that prize their font of Caen stone. Some of our modern Crusaders have been baptised at fonts which came from Caen.

# Unspoiling the Picture

SOME of the finest sculptures in the world, notably the Venus of Milo, have lain centuries, before re-discovery, buried in the earth or hidden under ruins. It is joyful news that paintings, too, can survive apparently ruinous hardship.

Masterpieces that were stored for safety in a London cellar, 30 feet deep, became immersed in water that flowed in during an air raid. Brought out recently, pictures by Vandyke, Frans Hals, Romney, and other masters, were found to be coated with slime, and seemed mere wrecks. Experts found, however, that only the surface varnish was affected; with this removed the paintwork proved absolutely unharmed.

A famous painting by Millais, called A Flood, based on an incident at Sheffield where a child was borne away unharmed in its cradle, has a history almost as surprising.

After painting and selling the work, the artist next saw it at an exhibition, 15 years later, and, asking that it should be sent to him, he greatly improved it by painting in a new background. When the owner was confronted with the alterations he cried angrily, "You have spoilt the picture!" "Oh no, I have not," Millais replied as he made a few sweeping wipes with a turpentine rag. And lo, there was the original painting, with everything as before.



One day the war will end. One day a new world will surely re-awaken around wide-eyed children unused to the ways of peace.

The carefree spirit of Peter Pan will capture the hearts of a young generation on the threshold of fresh, simple delights. Then, slightly to misquote Barrie—"To live will be an awfully big adventure."

Wise parents are keeping their children fit and healthy now with 'Milk of Magnesia', so that they will enjoy to the full the zest of youth in the happier years ahead.



'MILK OF MAGNESIA'

Trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia



# THE BRANTUB

## RHYMING RIDDLE

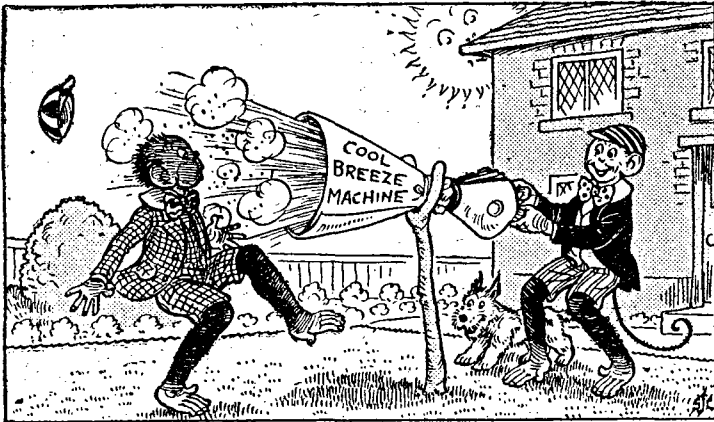
ME the contented man desires;  
The poor has; the rich re-  
quires;  
The miser spends; the spend-  
thrift saves;  
And all men carry to their graves.

Answer next week

## Draughty Promotion

"Just think, Mother, they're  
made me draft clerk at the  
bank today!"  
"Oh, that's nice! And what  
do you do? Open and shut the  
door, I suppose?"

## Jacko's Cool Breeze



ON one very hot day Jacko and Chimp decided that they at any rate would keep cool. Fetching an old pair of bellows from the attic they fastened to it a large paper trumpet. "Here is a cool breeze machine," said Jacko. "You have the first cooler while I pump." Chimp stood waiting for the refreshing breeze to blow, and Jacko started to pump. Chimp didn't have to wait long. Suddenly a spray of dust came flying from the old bellows into his face. "My goodness!" said Jacko to his flustered friend, "it works, but perhaps after all you'd better cool off in a bath tub."

## A Clever Ape

THE chimpanzee, a native of Africa, is one of the cleverest of all the apes, and very human in all its antics and behaviour. It stands about four feet high, has black hair, a reddish-brown face, and no tail. It lives in small societies in the forests.

## HIDDEN WAR LEADERS

IN the following verse are concealed the names of eight prominent Allied leaders. Bob Radley was most curt in manner. He knew no frolic, lark or fun. Yet had the making of a planner. He saw through every task begun. Upon a pedestal, indeed, We put him, but it often seemed That he might not in life succeed. Bob's still well-known and now is deemed An expert—yet that's our affair. I blame you not if you don't care.

Answer next week

She just coughed  
and coughed until—



**'Pineate'**  
HONEY  
COUGH-SYRUP

a dose of 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup checked the rasping spasms and started her on the road to rapid recovery. 'Pineate' Honey Cough Syrup brings ease and comfort—it breaks up stubborn phlegm and clears the bronchial passages. It is delicious to take. Only half a teaspoonful will check a cough immediately. 1/9 including Purchase Tax. Good for grown-ups too! Always ask for

## PICNIC COMFORT

WHEN picnicking in the country or by the seaside, it is a good plan to dig a shallow trench. Then sit on one side of the trench with feet and legs in the hole, and use the other side as a table. But do not forget to fill in the trench when you have finished.

## A Bishops Plea

A bishop once sent this verse to each of his clergy:

GIVE me a good digestion, Lord,  
And also something to digest;  
Give me a healthy body, Lord,  
And sense to keep it at its best.  
Give me a healthy mind, good Lord.  
To keep the pure and good in Which, seeing sin, is not appalled  
To find the way to set it right.  
Give me a mind that is not bored,  
That does not whimper, whine, or sigh;  
Don't let me worry overmuch About the fussy thing called I.  
Give me a sense of humour, Lord;  
Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some happiness in life  
And pass it on to other folk.

## The Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, June 21, to Tuesday, June 27.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Blue Nose, a strange tale of the Arctic, by Flying Officer David N. Bungay. 5.35 Reginald Gamble, the Bee Man, with Derek McCulloch, visits a factory where every kind of bee-keeping appliance is made, and where honey bees are bred.

THURSDAY, 5.20 Behind the Waterfall, serial play adapted from the book by Elizabeth Kyle. Episode 2—At the Peat-gatherer's Hut.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Owd Billy, the story of a Pit Pony, by A. J. Frain, told by Harry Day. 5.30 Down the Coquet, music and folk songs of

## WORD RELATIONS

THE word *Class* comes to us from the Latin word *Classis*, meaning originally an assembly called by a cry or a shout. As civilisation grew and certain people were chosen to be soldiers, traders, and so on, the word was used for the various groups, and came to mean a rank, or order.

The great idea of the word, however, is an assembly brought together by a shout, and among its brothers and sisters are:

*Clear*, because the loudly uttered word is clearer than the softly spoken word.

*Council*, which means an assembly called together.

*Haul*, which is associated with bringing something to somewhere.

*Calendar*, which comes from the Latin word meaning the first day of the month, when public notices were probably shouted out by the magistrate.

All these words can be traced back to the old Aryan root *Kal*, to cry out, or call.

## Uncertain Future

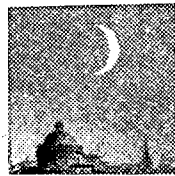
MUSED a Sprat in the chilly North Sea:

"One's not sure what one's finish will be.

Perhaps I'll end bloater-paste, But the fact must be faced That they may make a sardine of me!"

## Other Worlds

IN the evening Mars and Jupiter are in the west. In the morning no planets are visible. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 5 p.m. BDST on Saturday, June 24.



## A GIANT TIDE

THE Bay of Fundy in eastern Canada is remarkable for the extraordinarily great rise and fall of its tides. In the lower reaches this is about 25 feet, which increases toward the upper end till sometimes the immense height of 62 feet is reached.

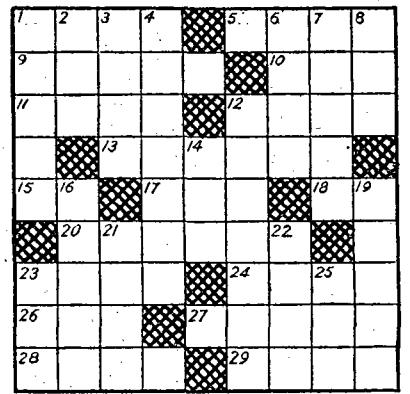
In many places only an expanse of red mud can be seen at low water, over which the tide rushes in a wall often six feet high. At spring tides the water in the Bay of Fundy is 19 feet higher than in Northumberland Strait, which is only 15 miles away.

## Crossword Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 The aim of the footballer. 5 A high voice for a man. 9 Contests. 10 A tune. 11 Related by blood. 12 To languish. 13 To separate. 15 South Africa (abbrev). 17 Consume. 18 Saint (abbrev). 20 Popular outdoor game. 23 A conveyance on water. 24 That which is used to feed fire. 26 A busy little insect. 27 A rolling swell of water. 28 Depository for eggs. 29 Limbs.

Reading Down. 1 The soil's coat of verdure. 2 A sturdy tree, this. 3 Having a sharp taste. 4 Merciful. 6 Placed in position. 7 Prongs. 8 A mineral containing metal. 12 Compassionate. 14 The front of an army. 16 To make reparation. 19 These cover a roof. 21 Devours. 22 Certain. 23 To prohibit. 25 To provoke.

Answer next week



## Nature News

ABOUT now the nightingale stops singing though it will not go away until August, and broods of partridges are hatched out in their nests on the ground, often in a clover field.

The pretty lilac scabious is beginning to flower in the cornfields, where the little harvest mouse, the smallest of our mammals, will soon build its neat round nest of woven leaves among the stalks of wheat and grasses.

## MISPLACED SYMPATHY

"Poor little things!" said the evacuee from the big city when she first saw the birds flying about the country, "I suppose they haven't any cages to live in."

## Brightness All the Year

Sing a song of Seasons,  
Something bright in all;  
Flowers in the Summer,  
Fires in the Fall.

R. L. Stevenson



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